

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 239787

51

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 DPW-01 NEA-10 EB-11 SR-02

ORM-03 SAI-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCI-06 SCEM-02 INT-08

AGR-20 MC-02 FMC-04 DLOS-06 COA-02 CG-00 SIL-01 LAB-06

CU-04 ARA-16 /251 R

DRAFTED BY:EA/P:STAFF:PP

APPROVED BY:EA/P:AHROSEN

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R 070536Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD FOR POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 239787

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 6 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

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PAGE 02 STATE 239787

1. ASTRACHAN (WP) FROM UN REPORTS THAT UNGA, BY 53-

TO-50 WITH 21 ABSTENTIONS, VOTED TO DEFER UNTIL NEXT YEAR PROPOSAL TO OUST GKR AND GIVE THE CAMBODIAN SEAT TO THE SIHANOUK REGIME. THE VOTE IS SEEN AS A SETBACK FOR 33 COMMUNIST AND NONALIGNED SPONSORS, AND DEPRIVES SIHANOUK OF POTENTIAL WEAPON IN HIS STRUGGLES AGAINST OTHER ELEMENTS IN GRUNK AND TO RETURN TO POWER IN CAMBODIA. DEBATE REVOLVED AROUND THEMES OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN CAMBODIA IN 1970 AND QUESTION OF WHO REALLY CONTROLS CAMBODIA. ASIANS ARGUED FOR POSTPONEMENT SAYING, IN EFFECT, "WAIT A YEAR OR TWO. LON NOL WILL BE OUT ANYWAY AND SIHANOUK WILL BE ABLE TO SEND HIS OWN DELEGATION...". MANY OTHERS WELCOMED CHANCE TO AVOID VOTING ON OUSTER QUESTION BECAUSE IDEOLOGICAL OR GROUP COMMITMENTS MIGHT HAVE COMPELLED THEM TO VOTE AGAINST THEIR BETTER JUDGEMENT. CLOSENESS OF THE TALLY SUGGESTS THAT IF OUSTER RESOLUTION ITSELF CAME TO A VOTE, THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ENOUGH ADDITIONAL ABSTENTIONS TO GIVE SIHANOUK A VICTORY.

2. TELTSCH (NYT) REPORTED (BEFORE THE POSTPONEMENT VOTE) OF REFERENCE BY THE USDEL BENNETT TO SIHANOUK'S "NON-GOVERNMENT IN EXILE" AND HIS REFUTATION OF ASSERTIONS

THAT PRINCE'S SUPPORTERS CONTROL 90 PERCENT OF CAMBODIA AND 80 PERCENT OF ITS PEOPLE. US LOBBIED INTENSIVELY WITH JAPAN, THAILAND, MALAYSIA AND SEVERAL OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES TO BLOCK THE OUSTER, DISPUTED CHARGES THAT SIHANOUK WAS DEPOSED BY A US-INSTIGATED COUP, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ALL COULD AGREE THAT NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IS PREFERABLE TO A MILITARY SOLUTION.

3. UPI FROM PARIS QUOTES FRENCH OFFICIALS THAT GOF HAS GRANTED PERMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN PARIS THIS WEEKEND IN SUPPORT OF SIHANOUK REGIME. MEETING HAS BEEN ORGANIZED BY 52 FRENCH GROUPS THAT HAVE PROTESTED AGAINST POLICIES OF US-BACKED INDOCHINA NATIONS, IS SPONSORED BY STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINA (NYDN).

4. ARVN, BACKED BY BOMBERS, LAUNCHED COUNTER-OFFENSIVE TO RETAKE KHIEH DUC AND EASE NVA PRESSURE ON PROVINCIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 239787

CAPITAL WHICH, ACCORDING TO MILITARY SPOKESMAN, IS THE "NEXT TARGET" (NYT, UPI, SUN, WP, CSM, PHINQ, CHITRIB). GVN STILL REPORTS CONTACT WITH 53D REGT. CUT OFF NORTH OF KHIEH DUC. THREAT TO GIA NGHIA IS REPORTEDLY REDUCED DUE TO ARRIVAL OF FRESH REINFORCEMENTS. BUT ARVN SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT JANAUARY PEACE AGREEMENT WOULD BE CONSIDERED TORN UP IF NVA ATTACKED GIA NGHIA (REUTER). ARVN

OPERATING UNDER STANDING SAIGON POLICY TO RETAKE ALL TERRITORY LOST SINCE C-F (PHINQ). COMMAND ANNOUNCED 322 NVA AND 37 ARVN KILLED, 124 ARVN MISSING AND 90 WOUNDED IN FIGHTING. MOST OF NVA CASUALTIES CAME IN LAST ASSAULT AND HALF OF KHIEU DUC DEFENDERS WERE EITHER CASUALTIES OR MISSING. MILITARY SOURCES ALSO REPORT THE LOSS OF CHOPPER CARRYING REINFORCEMENTS NEAR NHON CO AIRFIELD, FM BAC DENOUNCED, IN COMMUNIQUE, THE ATTACK AS AN ACT OF WAR AND BETRAYAL OF C-F (REUTER).

5. HEAVY FIGHTING REPORTED AROUND PLEIKU CITY; COMMUNIQUE SAID COMMUNISTS ATTACKED TWO GOVT. POSITIONS, 28 COMMUNISTS KILLED, GOVT. CASUALTIES WERE 2 KILLED AND 20 WOUNDED ADDING TO 5 ALREADY INJURED IN YESTERDAY'S AMMO DEPOT EXPLOSION (SUN). MILITARY COMMAND ALSO REPORTS 23 COMMUNISTS KILLED IN ATTACK WEST OF HUE. GOVT. CASUALTIES FROM SHELLING AND GROUND ATTACK WERE ONE KILLED, SIX WOUNDED (NYT).

6. DOD SPOKESMAN SAYS OFFICIALS STILL DON'T ANTICIPATE NATIONWIDE OFFENSIVE. GVN URGES SIGNERS OF ACT OF PARIS TO DISSUADE DRV FROM LAUNCHING SUCH AN

OFFENSIVE; MESSAGE CITES INFLUX OF 100,000 TROOPS SINCE C-F (PHINQ). STATE DEPT. SPOKESMAN ACCUSES DRV OF "BLATANT SERIOUS ACTS OF OVERT AGGRESSION," CHARGES THEM WITH 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN TROOPS STATIONED IN SVN SINCE JANUARY, BUT DOES NOT PREDICT FULL SCALE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE (NYT).

7. FRANK SIEVERTS TOLD HOUSE FONAFF SUBCOMMITTEE HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 239787

TO RELEASE POW'S BUT HAS NOT WRITTEN OFF CHANCES FOR DRV IMPROVED PERFORMANCE. 1200 MILITARY PERSONNEL PLUS 45 CIVILIANS STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR IN INDOCHINA. SIEVERTS CONFIRMED ANOTHER US CIVILIAN WAS CAPTURED OCT. 6 WHILE WORKING FOR ICCS, AND DRV IS BEING PRESSED FOR HIS RELEASE (NYDN).

8. SENATE PASSES FOREIGN AID BILL WITH FRESH BAN ON US COMBAT IN INDOCHINA. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS DISCLOSED THAT DOS HAD BEEN STUDYING WAR POWERS ACT AND ITS EFFECT ON EARLIER PROHIBITIONS. REP. WHALEN SAID ENACTMENT OF FOREIGN AID BILL WITH NEW BAN "POST DATES...WAR POWERS ACT, CONSEQUENTLY REPRESENTS CLEAR... PROHIBITION OF OUR MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA" (WSJ, SUN, PHINQ). BILL

AUTHORIZES 504 MILLION DOLLARS FOR HUMANITARIAN  
AID IN INDOCHINA (WP).

9. GVN NATIONAL BANK ANNOUNCES 9TH DEVALUATION  
OF PIASTER THIS YEAR (REUTER).

10. FIRE SWEPT SEVERAL HUNDRED POOR SAIGON HOMES  
TODAY BUT ONLY ONE PERSON INJURED. FIRE SPREAD  
BY GASOLINE STORED IN HOMES, ACTIVITY GOVT. HAS  
WARNED AGAINST (REUTER).

11. CLARITY (NYT) REPORTS FROM PP THAT ABOUT 20  
INSURGENTS ENTERED PP BY SMALL BOATS IN FIRST ATTACK  
INSIDE THE CITY IN OVER ONE YEAR, AT IMPORTANT  
"UN" BRIDGE ACROSS THE BASSAC SOUTH OF PP, BUT  
FAILED AS FANK DEFENDERS FOUGHT THEM OFF WITH ONLY  
SLIGHT DAMAGE TO STRUCTURE AND ONE ENEMY BELIEVED  
KIA (ALSO UPI, CHITRIB). GKR HAD NO COMMENT ON  
WHETHER ATTACK HAD ANY PAR  
E E E E E E E

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